

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6021

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 7731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF PAPADOPOULOS AND COMPANY

1. SUMMARY. NEWS MEDIA COVERED PROMINENTLY ARREST OF PAPADOPOULOS AND FOUR ASSOCIATES. MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER ISSUED TWO PUBLIC STATEMENTS OCTOBER 23 AND GOG CLARIFIED THAT BGEN IOANNIDES WAS NOT DETAINED SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE HE WAS INVOLVED WITH PAPADOPOULOS GROUP. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION POLYTECHNION ISSUED ORDER BANNING DEPARTURE FROM GREECE OF EX-PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS, BGEN IOANNIDES, EX-DIRECTOR KYP ROUFOGALIS, BGEN DERTILIS, FORMER DIRECTOR OF ATHENS EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, BOUKLAKOS AND COL I. TSAPOURAS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS AND RADIO/TV REPORTED PROMINENTLY ARREST YESTERDAY MORNING OF PAPADOPOULOS, PATTAKOS, MAKAREZOS, ROUFOGALIS AND LADAS DESCRIBING IN DETAIL HOW OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED, THAT PAPADOPOULOS IN PAJAMAS REPORTEDLY COMMENTED, "I EXPECTED THIS;" MAKAREZOS REQUESTED TIME TO CONSULT BY TELEPHONE HIS OCULIST; PATTAKOS WOULDN'T OPEN DOOR UNTIL HE CHECKED WITH EMERGENCY POLICE; AND WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM HOMES TO PIRAEUS AND THENCE TO KEA ISLAND. PRESS REPORTED MINDEF AVEROFF SUPERVISED OPERATION FROM HELLENIC NAVY CADET SCHOOL AND

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HELICOPTERS ACCOMPANIED MISSILE GUNBOAT FERRYING ARRESTED TO KEA.

NEWSMEN HIRED HELICOPTERS AND BOATS TO TRAVEL SIXTY-SEVEN MILES TO KEA TO COVER DETENTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHERS ARRIVING AT KARTHEA HOTEL WHERE SECOND FLOOR IS CORDONED OFF FOR APRIL 21 JUNTA LEADERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS FIVE EXILED HAD EVENING DINNER TOGETHER AND WATCHED EUROPEAN SOCCER MATCH ON TELEVISION. LOCAL INHABITANTS OF KEA REPORTEDLY INDIFFERENT.

3. FOLLOWING ARREST AND DEPORTATION MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER SOLOR GHIKAS MADE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOG CONFRONTS WITH DETERMINATION SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVEN YEAR PERIOD OF ANOMALY. THOSE DEPORTED WERE "DEPLOYING (SIC) CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITY, CAUSING CONCERN AND CREATING PREREQUISITES FOR DISTURBANCE OF TRANQUILITY AND CALM OF GREEK PEOPLE AT TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS FOR COMPLETION OF DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY. MOREOVER THEIR DEPORTATION SERVES ALSO TASK OF JUSTICE FOR PUNISHMENT OF RINGLEADERS OF SEVEN YEAR ANOMALY, BECAUSE IT MAKES IMPOSSIBLE THEIR ESCAPE FROM GREECE." FURTHER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF MINISTRY STRESSED THAT DEPORTATION DECISION WAS JUSTIFIED BY FACT THAT "DEPORTED PERSONS THROUGH THEIR ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL, THEIR CONTACTS AND THEIR MANIFESTATIONS ATTEMPTED TO PROVOKE DISTURBANCE OF COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY AND TO INCITE ALSO OTHER PERSONS TO COMMIT ACTS RUNNING COUNTER TO LAWS OF STATE." IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT SOURCE RUMORS OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS YESTERDAY WERE DENIED AND CLARIFICATION ISSUED EXPLAINING THAT FORMER MILITARY POLICE CHIEF AND NOVEMBER 25 JUNTA STRONGMAN, BGEN D. IOANNIDES WAS NOT EXILED WITH OTHER JUNTA LEADERS SINCE THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH PAPADOPOULOS GROUP.

4. ACCORDING TO EMERGENCY LAW DATED OCTOBER, 1935 GOG HAS AUTHORITY TO EXILE INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEMPT TO DISTURB PUBLIC ORDER OR TO INCITE OTHERS TO REVOLT IN DISOBEDIENCE OF STATE LAWS. SUCH GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LEGAL REMEDY. EXILE ORDER IS CONSIDERED ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE. MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER HAS AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND DECISION IF IN HIS JUDGMENT "SPECIAL REASON" EXISTS. ACCORDING TO ANA BULLETIN EXILE ORDER OF PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHERS PROVIDES FOR THREE MONTH DETENTION AND MAY BE REVOKED OR EXTENDED.

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5. FOLLOWING ARREST OF FIVE, ATHENS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR RELEASED ORDER BANNING DEPARTURE FROM GREECE OF EX-PRESIDENT GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, FORMER MILITARY POLICE CHIEF, BGEN IOANNIDES, FORMER CHIEF OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (KYP) ROUFOGALIS, EX-CHIEF OF STAFF ATHENS COMMAND DERTILIS, FORMER ATHENS EMERGENCY HOSPITAL DIRECTOR DERITILIS AND EX-COL. G TSAPOURAS. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S ORDER WAS ISSUED IN CONNECTION

WITH POLYTECHNION JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 7731

6. NEWS MEDIA GAVE PRIORITY TREATMENT TO YESTERDAY'S ARRESTS AND PUBLISHED REACTIONS OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES MADE STATEMENT THAT SINCE THOSE DEPORTED WERE INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE PLOTTING THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO COMPETENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL PROSECUTION. PASOK ISSUED STATEMENT NOTING THAT IF THERE IS ANY REAL DANGER GOVERNMENT SHOULD INFORM PEOPLE AND PARTY LEADERS. "WE DENOUNCE THE ARTFUL EFFORT OF GOVERNMENT AND NEW DEMOCRACY CIRCLES TO SUGGEST THERE ARE ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES: CARAMANLIS OR THE TANKS. ARMED FORCES HAVE SUFFERED BITTER EXPERIENCE OF BETRAYAL BY NATO ALLIES, PENTAGON AND JUNTA LEADERSHIP. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THE MAJORITY OF GREEK OFFICERS WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO YET ANOTHER COUP. THE GOVERNMENT IS LETTING OFF A VARIETY OF FIREWORKS AS ELECTION-EERING GIMMICKS. THIS INCLUDES THE ARREST OF A FEW TOP JUNTA MEMBERS TO CREATE IMPRESSION THEY WILL BE PUNISHED." ONLY ATHENS NEWS CARRIED REPORT THAT FORMER JUNTA NON-MILITARY ASSOCIATES RELEASED STATEMENT DENYING CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY AND NOTING THAT "SINCE SEPTEMBER 25 PAPADOPOULOS HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO RECEIVE EVEN HIS RELATIVES." ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNT PAPADOPOULOS "ONLY WANTED TO MEET NEWSMEN AND EXPLAIN HIS POSITION AND DEFEND HIS REPUTATION WHICH WAS DEFAMED BY RUMORS." ELEFTHEROS COSMOS, STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF APRIL 21 REGIME BEFORE RETURN OF PM

CARAMANLIS, REPORTED FACTUALLY ARREST OF PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHERS.
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TO VIMA HEADLINED ARRESTS BUT ADDED THAT POLITICAL PARTIES SEEK CLARIFICATIONS AND THAT BGEN. IOANNIDES HAD DISAPPEARED. WHEREABOUTS OF IOANNIDES HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SPECULATION SINCE HIS TESTIMONY DURING POLYTECHNION INVESTIGATION LAST MONTH WHEN HIS PRESENCE AT DOWNTOWN COURT HOUSE PRODUCED MOB SCENE DEMANDING INSTANT JUSTICE FOR FORMER STRONGMAN BEHIND NOVEMBER 25 REGIME.

7. COMMENT: ASSUMPTION IS WIDELY HELD THAT GOG PROBABLY DID NOT HAVE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE INDICATING CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITIES OF FIVE, CONCLUSION WHICH IS TO SOME DEGREE REINFORCED BY VAGUE NATURE OF OFFICIAL STATEMENTS SURROUNDING ARREST. MORE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION IS IMPACT OF ARRESTS ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. FORMER MILITARY REGIME LEADERS HAVE BEEN UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE PRESUMABLY SINCE GREECE'S RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. AFTER MILITARY TAKEOVER OF NOVEMBER 25, 1973, COUP LEADERS OF APRIL 21 WERE PUT ON SHELF AND ISOLATED TO GREAT EXTENT FROM ARMED FORCES AND ALL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS. THEIR EFFECTIVE STRENGTH AND CAPABILITY FOR MANOEUVRE SINCE THEIR OUSTER ARE DEBATABLE. BETTER EXPLANATION OF GOVERNMENT'S MOVE AT THIS TIME IS IMPACT ON ELECTIONS. PREMIER CARAMANLIS CONTINUES TO HEAR PERSISTENT STREET CHANTING OF "GIVE THE JUNTA TO THE PEOPLE" AND TO FEEL PRESSURE FROM POLITICIANS PRIMARILY OUTSIDE HIS OWN PARTY FOR PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY REGIME. BGEN. IOANNIDES WHO ENGENDERS MORE STUDENT/YOUTH AND OTHER PUBLIC WRATH THAN OTHER REGIME LEADERS REMAINS FREE AND HAS BEEN PUNISHED ONLY TO EXTENT OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE SERVICE AND RECENT DECISION BANNING OVERSEAS TRAVEL. QUESTION OF RETRIBUTION AGAINST MILITARY REGIME LEADERS REMAINS AMONG CARAMANLIS' MOST DELICATE PROBLEMS AS HE GAUGES PUBLIC SENTIMENT DEMANDING PROSECUTION FOR POLITICAL AS WELL AS CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST QUIETER BUT PROBABLY EQUALLY POWERFUL FORCES OPPOSING GOG ACTIONS AGAINST JUNTA LEADERS. EXILING PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHERS SEEMS CALCULATED AS PRUDENT HALF-MEASURE TO SATISFY LIBERALS/LEFTISTS AND YOUTH CLAMORING FOR REVENGE WHILE NOT ANTAGONIZING ARMED FORCES AND MORE CONSERVATIVE OPINION FAVORING HANDS OFF.
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